

Letter of Recommendation for Academy Nomination

One of my duties as United States Senator is nominating outstanding young people from New Mexico to our nation's military service academies. I cherish this opportunity to meet with some of our states' best and brightest: motivated high school students or recent graduates, who want to dedicate their talents and leadership in service to our country.

Those selected to attend a United States service academy receive an unparalleled college education with tuition, room and board, and expenses fully paid. Upon graduation, they will receive their commission as an officer in the United States Armed Forces.

To be considered for an appointment to one of these academies, applicants must first receive a nomination, typically from their member of Congress.

There are four service academies that require a nomination:

United States Military Academy at West Point, NY
United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD
United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY
United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO

The process to receive a nomination is a competitive one, with students across New Mexico applying for a limited number each year.

This is why your letter of recommendation is so important. Your letter carries great weight in the selection process because you have taught and guided applicants, and watched them grow during their high school years.

When drafting your letter of recommendation, I would ask you to consider addressing the following character traits that you have observed in this applicant. It is these items that my Military Service Academy Review Board looks for in the selection process.

Ability to work under pressure
Ability to work well with others
Communication skills
Leadership potential
Motivation
Organizational skills
Responsibility

I am looking for students who have excelled academically and physically, and exhibit exceptional character and leadership.

When you have completed your letter of recommendation, please email it directly to my staff at academy_letters@tomudall.senate.gov. If you have any questions, please contact my Albuquerque office at (505) 346-6791.

Thank you for all that you do,

U.S. Senator Tom Udall